



Lyle Roybal and Bob Fox were recently recognized at the fourth annual Idaho Innovation Awards ceremony. Fox's collaboration with ISU on the precision nanoparticle technology won the Early Stage Innovation of the Year award.

Innovation awards recognize Idaho innovators

by [Marilyn Whitney](#), *INL Communications & Governmental Affairs*

A breakthrough process that efficiently and affordably produces uniform nanoparticles using supercritical fluids was recognized as the Early Stage Innovation of the Year at the [2009 Idaho Innovation Awards](#). Idaho National Laboratory researcher Robert Fox accepted the award from Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter at a ceremony at Boise State University's Stueckle Sky Center in September.

Fox, who collaborated on the Precision Nanoparticles invention with Idaho State University chemists René Rodriguez and Joshua Pak, calls this a "scalable, revolutionary technology" that produces nanoparticles in uniform and prescribed sizes (1-100 nanometers). This technology is being used to manufacture quantum dots for highly efficient solar panels with the potential for significant impact on other energy research. In addition to its application in the production of photovoltaic cells, precision nanoparticles also hold promise in the production of cancer-fighting, bacteria-destroying and energy-storing materials. The technology has been licensed to Precision Nanoparticles, Inc., of Seattle

[View the *precision nanoparticles video*.](#)

The governor also honored INL's Water Sample Concentrator as a finalist in the Early Stage Innovation of the Year category. At the awards ceremony, Lyle Roybal represented the team of inventors, which includes INL researchers Michael Carpenter and Paul Tremblay, and EPA researchers H.D. Lindquist and Vicente Gallardo.

The Idaho Innovation Awards is presented by the law firm Stoel Rives LLP and [Kickstand](#), an organization dedicated to helping Idaho's entrepreneurs and innovators network, learn and grow. The program recognizes innovations, innovative professionals and companies throughout the state. INL has won six Idaho Innovation Awards among 11 finalists in the four years of competition.



[View the *water sample concentrator video*.](#)

Earlier in the day, the [Governor's Innovation Summit](#) brought together entrepreneurs, industry and education leaders to discuss how best to foster innovation and spur economic growth in the state. Among those sharing their experiences and perspectives were INL's Richard Hess, who participated in a panel on the energy and defense industry, and Center for Advanced Energy Studies Director Harold Blackman, who provided insight on how education and research impact Idaho's economy.

See a complete list of technologies, companies and individuals honored at this year's [Innovation Awards](#).

Read media coverage of Innovation Awards from [StreetInsider.com](#) and the [Idaho Business Review](#).

Read more about the [Precision Nanoparticle technology](#).

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